

Chapter 24 EQs

1. What was the impact of the transcontinental rail system on the American economy and society in the late nineteenth century?
2. How did the huge industrial trusts develop in industries such as steel and oil, and what was their effect on the economy?
3. What early efforts were made to control the new corporate industrial giants, and how effective were these efforts?
4. What was the effect of the new industrial revolution on American laborers, and how did various labor organizations attempt to respond to the new conditions?
5. Compare the impact of the new industrialization on the North and the South. Why was the “New South” more a slogan than a reality?
6. William Graham Sumner argued that the wealth and luxury enjoyed by millionaires was justifiable as a “good bargain for society” and that “natural law” should prevent the wealthy classes from aiding the working classes and poor/ Why were such views so popular during the Gilded Age? What criticisms of such views might be offered?
7. The text states “no single group was more profoundly affected by the new industrial age than women.” Why was women’s role in society so greatly affected by these economic changes?
8. In what ways did industrialization bring a revolution in cultural views of labor, opportunity, and even time?
9. How did the industrial transformation after the Civil War compare with the earlier phase of American economic development? Why were the economic developments of 1865-1900 often seen as a threat to American democracy, whereas those of 1815-1860 were not?
10. What strains did the new industrialization bring to the American ideals of democracy and equality? Was the growth of huge corporations and great fortunes a successful realization of American principles or a threat to them?